

November 2005: Above normal temperatures with subnormal precipitation highlighted the final month of Autumn across the area. Monthly temperatures averaged 1.5°F above normal at DCA and 2.6°F above at BWI and IAD, resulting in the 6th consecutive month with above normal temperatures at the major airports. The first 16 days of the month featured readings about 6°F above normal at DCA with most locations reporting highs at or above 60°F daily except for Veteran's Day (11th). In addition, BWI and IAD recorded 6 days (DCA, 5) with highs at or above 70°F, including the month's high reading of 77°F at the 6th at all three locations. The warm conditions resulted in mild overnight readings. Many suburban locations did not record their first freeze until late in the month. IAD recorded its latest first 32°F or lower reading ever on the 11th with a low of 31°F. By the 17th, the area saw a dramatic change to chillier conditions with highs 30°F lower than the mid 70's recorded 24 hours earlier. DCA recorded its first seasonal freeze on the 17th. The lowest daytime temperatures of the season occurred on the 25th when highs held in the mid 30's and minimum temperatures plummeted to 22°F at DCA (lowest November reading since 1986) on the 25th and 19°F at both BWI (26th) and IAD (25th). The month ended on a mild note as a surge of warm air pushed highs well into the 60's on the 28th and 29th, ensuring the 5th consecutive warmer than normal Autumn at all three major airports.

After a record wet October, drier conditions returned to the region. Precipitation totals generally ranged between 2.0" and 2.5", yielding monthly precipitation deficits of 1.11" at DCA, 1.00" at BWI, and 0.82" at IAD. Almost no rain fell the first half of the month with totals as low as 0.02" at BWI and 0.06" at DCA. A strong frontal system on the 16th generated about 0.50" to 0.75" across many areas. On the 22nd, over an inch of rain fell on some areas (IAD 1.14"). On the 29th, another strong frontal system brought about 0.50" of rainfall to the metro area. Substantially greater amounts fell across Central and Western Virginia and parts of Northern Maryland, including Frederick County, MD, resulting in flooded roads. Rainfall totals generally were between 3" and 6". Localized flooding as high as 9" in Nelson County, VA, force the evacuation of a trailer park, according to press reports. Most locations woke up to a dusting of snow on Thanksgiving, the season's first snowfall, with an inch or less reported at most locations. The month also featured windy conditions at times. Winds gusted to 52 mph at BWI on the 24th and 44 mph at DCA on the 10th.

NOVEMBER 2005 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In.)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNml	Max	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml	Yr to Date
National (DCA)	59.7	40.7	50.2	48.7	+1.5	77/6	22/25	1.92	2.03	-1.11	41.04
Baltimore (BWI)	59.6	36.5	48.1	45.5	+2.6	77/6	19/26	2.12	3.12	-1.00	41.79
Dulles (IAD)	59.7	35.9	47.8	45.2	+2.6	77/6	19/25	2.49	3.31	-0.82	45.07
Andrews (ADW)	58.0	39.0	48.5	N/A	N/A	77/6	21/25 ¹	1.77	3.30	-1.53	N/A

Other Occurrences: ¹26

AUTUMN (September-November) Temperature: Autumn featured above normal temperatures and precipitation. Average temperatures for the season of 61.9°F at DCA, 59.7 at IAD and 59.3°F at BWI, resulted in the warmest Autumn since 1985 at the 3 major airports. September started the season with unseasonably warm temperatures. The heat spell resulted in the 5th warmest September on record at DCA and BWI, and the 2nd warmest at IAD. DCA recorded 27 days with at or above normal highs, including 7 days with readings at or above 90°F, the most such September days since 1998. DCA recorded 26 days with highs at or above 80°F, including the first 23 days. A few locations well north and west of the metropolitan areas recorded lows in the 30's. Otherwise, minimum temperatures were quite mild with readings in the 50's and 60's throughout most of September. October marked the 8th month in 2005 with above normal temperatures across the area. It was the 4th warmest October ever recorded at IAD and the warmest since 1995 at both DCA and BWI. At IAD, the daily lows remained above freezing for the first time in October since 1984. At BWI, the mercury dropped to 32°F on the 29th, while lows at DCA remained at or above 40°F at night for the second consecutive October. Above normal readings continued through the first two-thirds of month (1st-20th) as temperatures averaged nearly 5°F above normal at DCA. Temperatures dropped toward the end of the month but rebounded to the 70's by Halloween, marking the second consecutive Oct. 31st with well above normal temperatures. November started warm and then shifted to more seasonal cold temperatures (see above).

Precipitation: Autumn 2005 was a season of precipitation extremes. September featured record dryness. October flipped to record wet conditions, including a 7"-9" deluge on Oct. 8-9. November switched back to drier than normal conditions. Seasonal precipitation surpluses were +1.19", +1.62, and +1.36" DCA, BWI and IAD, respectively. September continued a dry spell started in August aggravated by well above normal temperatures. The month was the driest on record in Washington and IAD, and 6th driest at BWI. DCA and IAD set new records for least September rainfall. January-August precipitation totals of close to 30" at both DCA and IAD and 34" at BWI were between 3" and 5" above normal through the first 8 months of the year but these surpluses evaporated at both DCA and IAD and decreased to less than 2" at BWI by the end of September. The extreme dryness prompted the U.S. Department of Agriculture to declare several Virginia counties, including Loudoun, Fauquier and Clarke, as agricultural disaster areas, according to press reports. October brought an unprecedented turnaround when most locations, including the three major airports, measured their wettest October on record. Monthly precipitation totals ranged generally between 9"-12", resulting in the wettest month since September 1999 at all three airports. A slow moving cold front coupled with the remnants of Tropical Storm Tammy resulted in a drenching. According to press reports, the heavy rains flooded numerous roads and basements and resulted in the evacuation of 30 people from homes and several rescues from cars stalled on roads swamped by as much as 6 feet of water in Harford County. Later in the month, a storm brought up to 18" of snow to local ski resorts in western Maryland and Virginia. November saw a return to drier weather (see above).

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	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNml	Max	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml
National (DCA)	70.7	53.0	61.8	59.4	+2.4	93/23	22/25	11.44	10.04	+1.40
Baltimore (BWI)	69.8	48.7	59.3	56.1	+3.2	93/23	19/26	12.02	10.26	+1.76
Dulles (IAD)	70.6	48.3	59.7	55.8	+3.9	93/23	19/25	11.86	10.50	+1.35
Andrews (ADW)				N/A	N/A					

Other Occurrences: ¹29, ²31

Looking Ahead to December: How much snow? Very little snowfall was recorded in Washington in 2004, what will 2005 bring? Listed below are the 10 most recent December snowfall totals at DCA. Normal DCA December snowfall: 1.5".

Year	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995
December Snowfall	0.1"	6.2"	7.1"	0.0"	2.0"	Trace	0.5"	0.1"	0.2"	1.3"